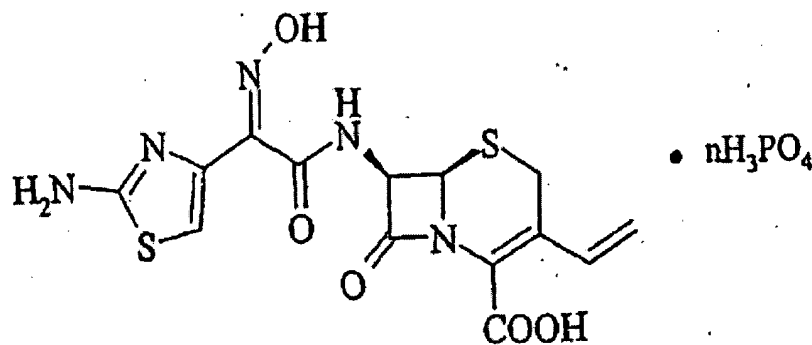


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

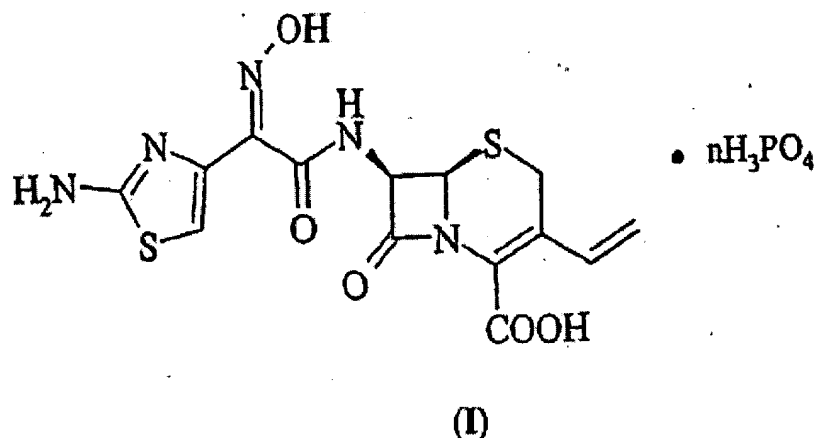
1. (Currently amended) Cefdinir salts of formula (I)



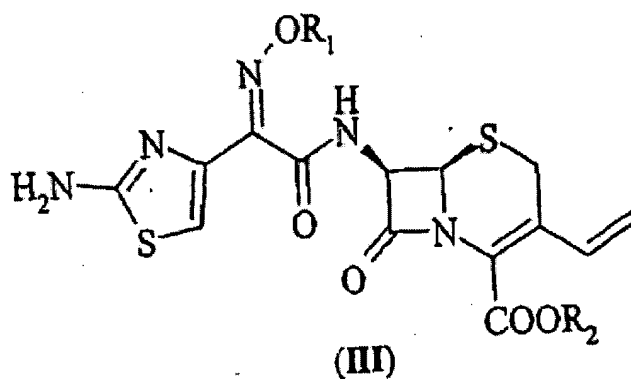
(I)

wherein n ranges from 1 to 3, and the hydrates and solvates thereof.

2. (Original) Cefdinir salt as claimed in claim 1 wherein n is 2.
3. (Previously presented) Cefdinir salts according to claim 1 in the crystalline form.
4. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of salts of formula (I)



comprising ~~the treatment~~menting with phosphoric acid of a compound of formula (III)



wherein

R₁ is a benzhydryl, trityl or p-methoxybenzyl group, and

R₂ is benzhydryl, t-butyl or p-methoxybenzyl group.

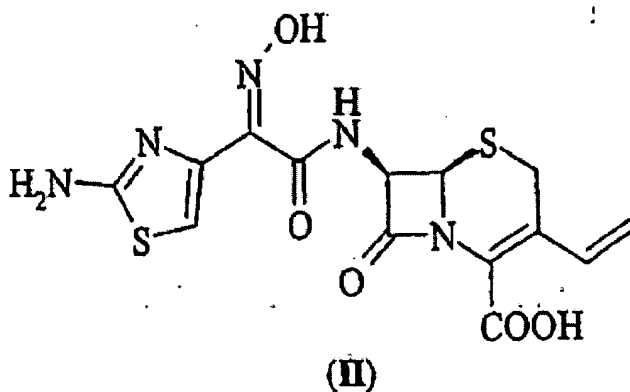
5. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 4 wherein the treatment is conducted in ~~characterized in that use is made of~~ an organic solvent selected from:

acetonitrile, propionitrile, ethyl acetate, butyl acetate, ethyl formate, methyl acetate, N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF), N,N-dimethylacetamide (DMA), N-methylpyrrolidone (NMP), acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, tetrahydrofuran (THF), dioxane, dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO), sulfolane, formic acid, acetic acid, methylene chloride, methanol, ethanol and isopropanol.

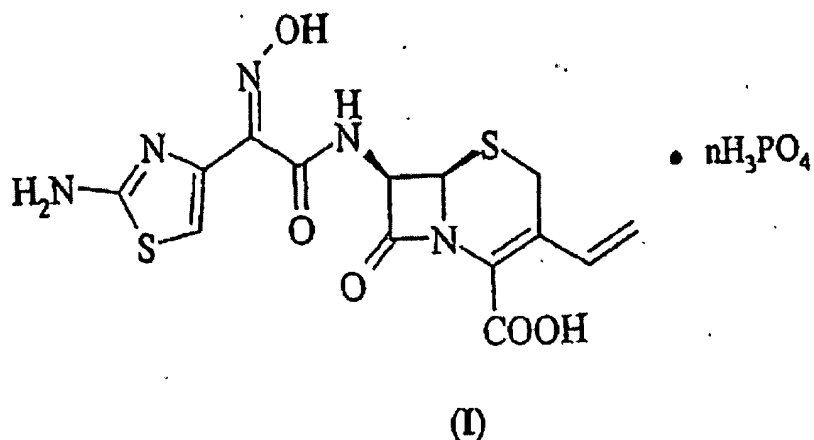
6. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 5 characterized in that the solvent is acetonitrile.

7. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 4 characterized in that use is made of 1 to 20 equivalents of phosphoric acid.

8. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of cefdinir (II)



comprising the ~~treatment~~ing of salts of formula (I)



with an organic or inorganic base, in which the organic base is ~~triethylamine~~ triethylamine and the inorganic base is ~~selected from ammonia, sodium carbonate or bicarbonate, or potassium hydroxide or sodium or potassium phosphate,~~ followed by ~~treatment~~ treating of the resulting solution with conventional acids.

9. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 8 wherein the salt of formula (I) is obtained by reacting crude cefdinir with phosphoric acid.